

STEPHEN BUNNELL.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 390.]

MARCH 19, 1860.

Mr. FENTON, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Stephen Bunnell, of Indiana, for a pension, with the accompanying papers in corroboration thereof, respectfully report :

That the Adjutant General having certified that the said petitioner served as quartermaster's sergeant in the artillery corps of the United States army for five years, from March, 1812, to March, 1817, the committee have examined into the merits of his claim, and find them as follows :

1. Mr Bunnell testifies, under oath, that he entered the army in robust health ; that his physical powers were broken down by arduous service and exposure in his specially hazardous line of duty ; and that now in his old age, with his constitution broken down, being unable, from his failure to claim a discharge when sick and from the death of his captain and comrades since, to furnish the evidence required at the Pension Bureau, he applies to Congress for its recognition. It appears that he was the first who landed at the taking of Fort George, shared in the capture of Queenstown Heights, participated in the battle of Stony creek, lying on the wet ground at nights with the rest of the army on their march thither, which caused him such a fit of sickness as to confine him for many months in the hospital at Youngstown. Although this sickness has impaired his system ever since, he recovered sufficiently to again join the army, and to man the gun under his charge at the battle of Chippewa. At Lundy's Lane, his captain being slain and his lieutenant wounded, he took command, under direction of General Scott, of the last gun left to his company, and kept it in operation till he had but one man left, and his ammunition was exhausted, when he succeeded in getting the gun from the field of battle. At Fort Erie he was honored with a command above his rank, namely, of a battery in a specially exposed condition, in front of the gate of the fort ; and by its discharges, after the fort had

been taken by the enemy, blew it up, discomfiting the whole British detachment. He was wounded in the wrist at Chippewa, and at Fort Shelby was badly injured in the shoulder by a fall occasioned by rotten timber in a bridge; but had never claimed a pension on account of these injuries, not deeming at the time that he would ever need it. Such a record of faithful and important service to his country certainly deserves the recognition as well as the relief which the granting of a pension would afford.

2. Corroborating this statement are affidavits of Samuel Bunnell and Elizabeth Marsh, who depose that the claimant entered the army in good health, but has been in impaired health ever since; another from S. M. Bishop that, since 1820, the claimant has not been able to perform a full day's work; the affidavits of eminent physicians, corroborating his statement, and certifying that he cannot perform one-third of a day's work in a day, and not even that without great pain; the vouchers of Hon. N. Eddy and Hon. C. W. Cathcart, former members of Congress from his district, and finally, a strong recommendation to Congress in his behalf by Lieutenant General Winfield Scott, his old commander.

Your committee therefore unanimously recommend the passage of a bill granting a pension to this faithful old soldier; and the official certificate of the Adjutant General, as to his service for five years, bearing date the 10th of January, 1855, they propose that his pension should commence at that time.